

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE
AT SALISBURY.

THE members of the Archaeological Institute have gathered together in good array around the cathedral of Salisbury, and are proceeding with the business of the congress. On the 24th, the introductory meeting was held, and various objects in or near the town were visited, of which we hope to say something in our next number. At the dinner-meeting, on Tuesday, in the council room, at least 300 ladies and gentlemen sat down to a plentiful display of the good things of life, which the mayor and corporation had liberally provided. On the following morning several hundreds of the poorer inhabitants of the city were presented with the remains of the feast in food and liquors, and thus were comforted and made happy.

At the morning meeting, the Marquis of Northampton, on taking the chair, had addressed an assembly of at least two hundred, in his accustomed kind and affable manner, by saying how much he rejoiced in seeing so many congregated from various parts of the country to compliment archaeology and the singular locality in which they met. His lordship introduced the Right Honourable Sidney Herbert as the president for the ensuing year. This accomplished and learned gentleman manifested much taste and tact in addressing the company, by pointing out and characterizing the prominent objects of archaeological and historic interest which belong to Old and New Sarum, to the castrametations and barrows of the plains, Stonehenge, Wilton House, &c., and dwelt particularly on the merits of some of the Wiltshire worthies, who had been born or dwelt at Salisbury or in the county. The bishops of Salisbury and Oxford followed in the same strain, in proposing certain resolutions. Two papers were next read by Mr. Matcham and the Rev. Joseph Hunter, the latter on the topographical gatherings at Stourhead and the archaeological lore and researches of the late Sir Richard Colt Hoare. The President announced that Sir Hugh Hoare would be happy to show the antiquities of Stourhead to a select party of the institute, on Monday next. The meeting then broke up, and proceeded in parties to visit the museum opened at the King's House, in the Close, the cathedral, and other objects of archaeological interest in the city.

In the evening, Professor Willis in the chair, a paper was read by Mr. Tucker, written by the Rev. E. Duke, on Stonehenge, endeavouring to show that it indicated a part or member of a vast planetary system of the universe.

The Dean of Hereford gave some explanations and details of the operations now going on at Silbury-hill, and the contents of certain of the barrows near Amesbury. The dean found the cutting at Silbury-hill advanced about 32 yards on Wednesday week. He advised the workmen to stop at about two yards from the centre of the hill, in order that the members might be present at its exploration. The speaker next alluded to the contents of some barrows he had opened while in the neighbourhood. An animated conversation followed, in which Mr. Britton, Mr. Yates, and other gentlemen, took part.

On Wednesday morning, large parties visited Amesbury, Old Sarum, Stonehenge, &c., and in the evening Mr. Markland and Mr. Britton read two papers to a large assembly at the council-house. Of these and future proceedings more anon.

Annexed we give an engraving, from a drawing made for the purpose, of the north porch of the cathedral, a very interesting example of the Early English period. The cathedral, with the exception of the tower and spire, was commenced and finished between 1220 and 1258. Professor Willis is to illustrate it, and our readers may look to have the advantage of some of his remarks.

STRENGTH OF BEAMS.—Permit me to ask for a demonstration of the following statement, hoping some of your readers will furnish a solution. I am not aware of any simple demonstration, and it is with the object of obtaining such that it is proposed. The question is—"That in beams of equal length and breadth the transverse strength is as the square of the depth?"—A., Belfast.

BURIAL IN TOWNS—THE CHOLERA.

"When thy judgments are in the world the people of the earth will learn righteousness."—Psalm.

YOU are aware that the following proceeds from one who, with little public *félicité* and less of interested motives, has had long and ample opportunities of judging on the above subject. Within the last two months, however, I have first personally known illness, severe and painful, not merely of grave-diggers but also of an excellent clergyman, himself very willing for any equitable change, contracted whilst reading the funeral service by the grave. This was in an important ground, and not one of the most generally obnoxious. If space between graves were enforced, and coffins not allowed to graze each other, nor piles of them of different dates to be exposed at fresh diggings, a child could see that danger would be materially lessened.

But for the moment, let me presume to suggest that chloride of lime should be placed in churches and chapels, when bodies are taken into them,—and why not also by the side of graves?

The fact of certain burying grounds ably assisting the cholera is now fully brought home, and perfectly useless to be denied. We are publicly told that St. Margaret's, Westminster, now poisons the neighbouring sewers. The ground has been obstinately kept up in defiance of representations for a long time. Would it not be a most righteous rebuke in any such aggravated case for a congregation to leave any church for a time, and go to others where there was room? I believe that most persons, except the clergy themselves, know that equitable compensation has not been in the least objected to in this case—the objection not being to the fees, but to the dreadful "accommodation" afforded in return; they know, however, that the system cannot be endured much longer. The cholera scourge may be protracted for some time. Is it their pleasure that it should outlast that? I have tried to defend the clergy many times, from individual good opinion and some predictions, and have urged that they have not the power of remedy. But I have received one answer which cannot be answered again, but greatly imports all whom it properly concerns—"They are represented in the House of Lords!"

As to the difficulty of removing bodies far out of town, I had rather see several coffins deposited in one hearse, and horses galloping with them, if I knew they would be decently deposited at the end, than see bearers creeping with coffins to a filthy churchyard. And in this wonderfully contriving age, cheap means might be arranged for persons to visit the graves of their relations and friends. The new regulation of 5 feet depth above coffins would be excellent if it were virgin earth, or undisturbed for fifteen or twenty years; but how different the case is in town burying places, of which many in large provincial towns seem, if possible, worse than in London, any one can see for himself.

Shakespeare has been quoted (grave-digging scene in "Hamlet"), in proof of bad state of churchyards in his day. But it should be carefully observed, that he alludes to nothing but or worse than bones, not to previous premature disturbance. "Here, now, is a skull which has lain in the earth three and twenty years," a much better lease than the usual ones of London churchyards.

"Lay her in the earth,
And from her fair and unpolluted flesh
May violets spring."

A beautiful poetical idea, but requiring a different character of burial place.

One concluding observation on a different but not incongruous subject. It was predicted four years ago, when the triumphant clearings out of the poor took place in St. Giles's, for the erection of new and smart streets, that their case would be rendered doubly bad. The present Earl of Carlisle took up the subject, to his honour, and something has been done in the erection of lodging houses, &c. Still, what the whole effect of such "clearings" has been, let any one read for himself in the report of "Church and Carrier street," St. Giles's, in the *Times* of a few days back. And, perhaps, until the very poorest can get a decent weekly

bed for a shilling, and even a safe nocturnal cover for a penny—the ends of salubrity and humanity will not be fully answered.

ERASLUS.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE foundation-stone of Portland Breakwater was to be laid on 25th inst. by Prince Albert.—On Monday week the chief stone of the church of St. John, at Gaisley, Wolverhampton, was laid by the Countess of Cavan. The edifice is to be built in the early English style, and of stone from the Penkridge quarries. The site and a donation were presented by Lord Hatherton. The architect is Mr. Robinson, junr.—The town council of Bridgnorth have resolved that part of the High-street be taken up and repaired, by Charles Green, of Shrewsbury, who agreed to do it for 34d. per yard; having repaved that portion of the north of the Town Hall for 3d. per yard, but at that price could not get wages.—While driving the holdfasts for fixing an improved lightning conductor to Sheffield parish church, according to the local *Times*, the apex which finishes the octagon of the spire was found to have three fissures, which rendered the upper part of the spire very precarious. The spindle of the vane was much corroded, and about 9 feet of the spire required to be taken down. The work was commenced inside the spire, and a stone being taken out, a rope was suspended, to which a cage for the workmen to be placed in was attached. An octagon iron frame with sockets to admit of supporters for the outside scaffolding was fitted to the spire, and rendered firm by screws. When the old vane was taken down the inscription was quite legible: on one side were the words "Mr. W. Hurton, Capital Burgess, 1799," and on the other, "Mr. Saml. Younge, Capital Burgess, 1823."—The foundation-stone of the new church to be erected at Pitmoor, says the same paper, was laid on Monday week. The church is to be built from the designs of Messrs. Flockton and Son. It is to be cruciform in plan, with nave, aisles, porch, transepts, chancel, and tower. The style is Early Decorated, the windows being filled with geometrical tracery. It will seat 266 persons in low pews, and 352 in open free seats on the ground-floor. Small galleries in the transepts and tower will accommodate 224 children, making the total number of sittings 842. The roofs are to be open and stained. The builders are—J. and A. Ridal masons; W. Turner, carpenter; J. Copley, slater; T. S. Harrison, plasterer; Drury and Smith, plumbers, &c.—The old church at Charleote has been pulled down, and is about to be re-erected on nearly the same site, but enlarged, at the cost of Mrs. Lucy, relict of Mr. George Lucy.—Active measures are in progress for the collection of a sufficient sum, by subscription, for the proposed monument to Cromwell at St. Ives.—The St. Neot's Gas Company will again, it is said, pay a dividend of 84 per cent. on its "capital." The price of gas at St. Neot's has been 8s. per 1,000 feet during the three years of the Company's existence. They must reduce their price, and thereby increase their dividend, already a good one. There are plenty of poor people at St. Neot's whose means, such as they are, will thus be made use of by the company to its own increasing profit.—The rector of Moulton, Suffolk, has commenced, at his own cost, a school, for 100 children, with master's house attached. It is in the Tudor style, with three light transomed gable windows and side lights, roof open, coping gables, and finials of stone, ridging trefoliated crest tiles. Mr. J. F. Clark is the architect.—At Briggs, says a contemporary, the corn-exchange, new gas-works, and many new freehold private residences, and various establishments, about to make their appearance, will cause the town for some time to become a scene of bustle and activity in the building department.—Christ Church, King-Sterndale, near Buxton, was consecrated on Thursday in last week.

THE BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION will open their congress at Chester on Monday.